

**Austin Peay State University General Education Requirements and Degree Requirements****POLICIES****Issued:**

**Responsible Official:** Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Responsible Office:** Office of the Registrar

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**Policy Statement**

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It is the policy of Austin Peay State University to have common general education requirements and degree requirements that students are expected to take in order to graduate.

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**Purpose**

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The purpose of this policy is to specify the common general education requirements at the lower-division for the University.

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- APSU Catalog/Bulletin

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**Procedures**

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**General Education Requirements**

- A. Austin Peay State University, with other state university and community colleges in Tennessee, subscribes to common general education requirements at the lower-division.

B. These requirements consist of forty-one (41) semester hours in the following subject categories and are required for completion of the Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Science (A.S.), and all baccalaureate degrees.

1. Communication: 9 semester hours
  - a. Six (6) semester hours of English composition and three (3) semester hours in English oral presentational communication are required.
2. Humanities and/or Fine Arts: 9 semester hours
  - a. One course must be in world literature.
  - b. Two courses in Humanities and Fine Arts
    - i. Complete two courses from two different disciplines; or
    - ii. Complete one World Language (1010/1020).
3. Social/Behavioral Sciences: 6 semester hours
4. History: 6 semester hours
  - a. Students who lack the required one unit (one year) of American history from high school as an admissions requirement must complete six (6) semester hours of American History or three (3) semester hours of American History and three (3) semester hours of Tennessee History to fulfill the history requirement in general education. Otherwise, students may choose from among the approved history courses to fulfill the six-semester hour requirement in history.
5. Natural Sciences: 8 semester hours
6. Mathematics: 3 semester hours

C. Courses specified as meeting general education requirements are published in the APSU University Undergraduate Bulletin.

D. Students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree shall be required to demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language equivalent to completion of two years of college level work.

E. Students pursuing as Associates of Fine Arts degree in Music as a Tennessee Transfer Pathway will complete all of the required General Education hours in Section B. above except for six hours of the humanities requirement, including one course in literature, which must be completed at a university upon transfer. Total 35 hours.

**Undergraduate Degree Requirements and Provisions**

- A. All baccalaureate degrees offered by Austin Peay State University shall require a maximum of 120 semester hours, except in certain degree programs in which approval to exceed the maximum has been granted. The programs approved as exceptions to the maximum are identified in APSU's University Undergraduate Bulletin.
- B. All associate of arts and associate of science degrees offered by APSU shall be designated on the THEC Academic Program inventory as University Parallel degrees and require a maximum of 60 semester hours, except in certain degree programs in which approval to exceed the maximum has been granted. The programs approved as exceptions to the maximum are identified in the APSU University Undergraduate Bulletin. For students who complete a Tennessee Transfer Pathway, the corresponding associate of arts or associate of science or associate of fine arts degree shall include the title of the pathway in the catalog and on the diploma.
- C. Credit hours earned in remedial or developmental courses may be considered institutional credit; they are not applicable to credit hours required for any certificate, associate, or baccalaureate degree.
- D. College courses taken to address course deficiencies in high school preparation and to meet minimum university admission requirements effective fall 1989 may be used concurrently to satisfy general education requirements specified above.

**Transfer Provisions of General Education and Tennessee Transfer Pathway Courses**

- A. Students who complete the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science or Associate of Science in Teaching degree and transfer to APSU will satisfy all lower-division general education requirements.
- B. University to university transfer students and community college students who do not complete the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science or Associate of Science in Teaching or Associate of Fine Arts degree and transfer to APSU, but have completed blocks of subject categories will have satisfied the general education requirements for the categories of note.
  - 1. For example, if the eight (8) semester hours of natural sciences are completed, then this block of the general

education requirement is fulfilled upon transfer to APSU.

2. When a subject category is incomplete, a course by-course evaluation will be conducted, and the student will be subject to the specific requirements of APSU.
3. If a student is following a Tennessee Transfer Pathway, all courses contained within the curriculum of that pathway completed by the student prior to transfer shall be accepted by APSU and be applied either to the general education requirement or area of emphasis requirement as listed in that Tennessee Transfer Pathway.

C. Institutional/departmental requirements of the grade of "C" will be honored.

1. If credit is granted for a course with the grade of "D," any specific requirements for the grade of "C" will be enforced, except as provided in Section B of Calculation of Grade Point Averages (GPAs) for Courses Transferred and Related Applications.

D. In certain majors, specific courses included as general education options must also be taken to meet the requirements of that major.

1. In cases where specific general education courses are required for certain majors, the student is responsible for enrolling in the correct courses.
2. Failure to fulfill specific major requirements when offered in lower-division general education may result in the need to complete additional courses.

**Calculation of Grade Point Averages (GPAs) for all Courses Transferred and Related Applications**

A. Upon receiving courses for transfer, APSU will exclude grades in the calculation of Grade Point Averages (GPAs).

1. Credit will be given for all courses in which passing grades are achieved, including the grade of D.
2. All grades, including F's, W's, etc., must be included in the transfer record.
3. The entire record of transfer students will be considered for eligibility of admission into programs that require attainment of specific grade point averages or where external entities stipulate consideration of the entire student record.

B. Specific application regarding the grade of D pertains as follows:

1. Community college students who complete approved Tennessee Transfer Pathways (TTPs) or parts thereof, the grade of D will be honored and affected courses will not be subject to repetition, except in certain cases where requirements stipulate specific courses must be achieved with a grade of C (2.0) or higher.
2. *In routes of transfer outside the TTPs, institutional practices regarding the applicability of the grade of D will be honored.*

C. APSU will follow prescribed state practices in evaluating continuing eligibility for the Tennessee Lottery Scholarship Program, which requires inclusion of calculating the cumulative GPA on all courses taken after graduation from high school.

D. APSU has specific criteria for honors designations that can be found in the University Undergraduate Bulletin.

E. In cases where a student repeats a course at another institution, the receiving institution should utilize its own repeat policy to exclude the grade/credit originally earned.

**General Education Requirements for the Associate of Applied Science Degree**

A. The Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree is not designed to transfer to baccalaureate programs; however, a general education component is required.

B. The following distribution of general education courses is required for the A.A.S. degree.

1. English Composition: 3 semester hours
2. \*Humanities and/or Fine Arts: 3 semester hours
3. \*Social/Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester hours
4. \*Natural Science/Mathematics: 3 semester hours
  - a. One additional course from the categories of Communication, Humanities and/or Fine Arts, Social/Behavioral Sciences, or Natural Science/Mathematics 3-4 semester hours

C. Total 15-17 semester hours

D. Specific courses satisfying these requirements must be the same courses that satisfy the general education requirement for the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or baccalaureate degrees.

**Graduate**

A. Graduate Degree Requirements and Provisions

1. Graduate degree requirements vary by discipline and level. Generally, APSU master and doctoral programs require a 3.0 GPA or higher for graduation.
- B. Transfer Provision for Graduate Courses
  1. Transfer credit provisions at APSU are in keeping with best practice guidelines. As such, transfer of graduate credit is limited in a number of areas.
    - a. For example,
      1. the number of hours that may be transferred,
      2. in equivalency of requirements,
      3. the procedures for acceptance of graduate transfer credits,
      4. the period in which courses may be taken and time limits on graduate work varies by institution, department and academic program.
    2. In general, courses are eligible for transfer if the grade earned is a "B" or better.

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## Links

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**APSU Catalog/Bulletin** <http://www.apsu.edu/registrar/bulletins>

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## Revision Dates

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APSU Policy 1:027 – Rev.:

APSU Policy 1:027 – Rev.: June 4, 2021

APSU Policy 1:027 (previously 2:005) – Rev.: September 14, 2020

APSU Policy 1:027 – Issued: March 25, 2017

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## Subject Areas:

Academic	Finance	General	Human Resources	Information Technology	Student Affairs
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## Approved

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President: signature on file

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